October 31, 2015

# ICARC NEWSLETTER

**Officers for 2015:**
President - Craig Bigler AB3XA
Vice President - Doug Fitzsimmons K3LAB
Treasurer - Terry Carnahan KB3JOD
Secretary - Larry Freeman N3LT

**Additional Board Members for 2015:**
(Officers are automatically board members)
1. Dave Dzelsky N3DZ
2. Carl Hvozda N3PIE
3. Jerry Kiehl WB3DUD
4. Phil Kopczyk K3PJ
5. Elmer Sorisio KB3WG

**LOCAL HAPPENINGS:**

The October 6 meeting of ICARC went smoothly with discussion of various items of interest to the club: PAQSO party, other upcoming events...etc. The complete discussions on all topics are summarized in minutes presented at the end of the Newsletter.

**The Ham Radio Class for the Introductory License for 2015 is now history and we have seven NEW hams. Congratulations!!** The successful candidates will all get complimentary membership in ICARC, if they so desire. Every one in the class who took the exam got a ticket: Mike Biconik (formerly a Tech., tested for General) and John Bertolino (Tested for Tech and General) are now General class hams. Ernest Clark, Linda Biconik, Lauren MacMullen, Keith Rearick, Jason Rearick, and Walter Schroth are new Technician class license holders. Congratulations to you All!

The Camporee at Seph Mack Camp on October 3 (see photos below,), was very successful as was the paqso party on October 10-11 and the Jamboree on the air, October 17, both at Dave Steiners home. There were some problems to overcome with equipment but we were able to persevere in the field and get everything working for the paqso party! It was a very busy month but we all got through it and enjoyed ourselves and did some good work in helping the scouts learn about amateur radio. Kudos to Dave and Marge Steiner for letting the events happen at their place and going **way beyond the call of duty** in providing radio equipment and plenty of food and drink. Thank you both so much! Much thanks also goes to Dave Dzelsky (N3DZ) for contributing his Go Box to the paqso party event and making many contacts. There were a total of 115 contacts submitted to the Nittany ARC from the ICARC operation. Thanks to Joe Rankin, and Dave Steiner for their operating and the many contacts, including one DX contact with the Canary Islands, that they were able to make. Also thanks to the other operators: Jerry Kiehl, Craig Bigler, and Larry Freeman who also made several contacts.

We must thank Joe Rankin for the above photos. The one on the right shows many of the folks who were there on October 2 for the setup of antennas and radio equipment at Seph Mack Camp in preparation for the Camporee event on October 3. They are taking a break for lunch which was provided by Ms. Sandy Bigler with the help of Mr. Craig (AB3XA) Bigler who are both scout leaders and much of the motivation for our involvement in the event. Craig is also the President of ICARC. The food was great. Thank you so much Sandy! The photo on the left shows one of the fundamental purpose of the event which is to familiarize scouts with the utility and operation of ham radio. As can be seen the scouts were able to operate the equipment and make contacts. Many thanks must go to Joe Rankin and Doug

Fitzsimmons for mentoring the scouts during these radio operations and making the event so successful. Of course much thanks goes to all those folks who showed up on Friday to help do all the necessary setup of antennas and the equipment.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

On Tuesday, November 3, 2015 ICARC meets in the back room of Indiana Eat n' Park restaurant. The board meeting starts at 7:00 pm and the general meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Please try to attend because this is the meeting at which officers are to be nominated.

On Wednesday, November 11, 2015 ICARC members will be providing the communications along Philadelphia Street in Indiana for the annual Veteran's Day parade.

On December, 19 2015 ICARC will hold its annual Christmas and fundraiser dinner at Hoss' restaurant in Indiana, PA. The dinner event is at 6:00 pm but the fundraiser is all day long. Although we would love to see you at the dinner, you may eat at anytime during the day, just remember to provide the fundraiser card to your server so that ICARC will get credit.

**INTERESTING TIDBITS IN RADIO NEWS:**

New ham radio satellite launched on October 8, 2015: The FOX-1A ( AO 85 ) is a small CubeSat developed by AMSAT. The satellite carries a basic cross-band analog FM repeater with an uplink frequency of 435.180 MHz, and a downlink frequency of 145.980 MHz. When fully operational it will allow ground stations using a handheld FM transceiver with a simple dual band antenna to make contacts. It is currently in the testing and check-out phase and has already be heard by many hams all over the world. For more information check the following website: http://www.eham.net/articles/35475

**Repeat from the September issue:** From CQ we learn that the ARRL is increasing its annual dues by $10. This will make the dues $49 and take effect at the beginning of 2016. Also, an FCC decision now elevates the Amateur radio service from being a secondary to being the primary service across the 160 m band. The upper part of the band 1900-2000 kHz had been the primary domain of the radio-location service but has not been used for that purpose for years. In addition the frequency range has been authorized for the use on offshore buoys used by commercial fisherman. The latter has been going on, illegally, for many years with no significant complants to the FCC therefore they decided to make it legal rather than force the fishermen to install new buoys. These changes were put into effect on August 6, 2015. **CQ Reports that the ARRL Board of Directors Adopts a New HF Band Plan change for 75/80 meters** at their July meeting. The ARRL will petition the FCC to reduce the phone portion of the band by 50 kHz and add 50 kHz to the CW/RTTY/DATA segment of the band. It will also seek to get RTTY and data priviledges on the band for Novices and Technicians. The 3600-3650 kHz segment, currently restricted to Extra Class phone, will be open to all for CW, RTTY, and data under the proposal. The petition will also seek RTTY/data priviledges for Novice and Technicians on 15 meters. There are a few other issues in the petition related to frequencies for automatically controlled data stations. **FCC Field Office closures**: Radio World reports that the FCC field office closures will include:Anchorage, Buffalo, Detroit, Houston, Kansas City, Norfolk, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Juan, Seattle, and Tampa. Operations will continue in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Columbia (MD), Dallas, Denver. Honolulu, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, Portland (OR), and San Francisco. In addition, there will be two Enforcement Bureau, rapid-response teams that work from the Denver, and Columbia offices. All field agents will now be required to be electrical engineers. **(The author comments about this latter requirement: This seems, in my opinion, to be a foolish requirement in that you really need experienced, practical folks working in the field and excluding some of the older, more experienced field agents based upon their formal education seems to me to be a serious mistake. ) On the enforcement side of radio things,** CQ reports that the FCC has proposed a $22,000 fine against Michael Guarnsey, KZ8O, of Parchment, Michigan for repeated interference with other amateurs and failing to identify. Apparently, the infractions go back more than a decade and he ignored repeated written warnings. Additionally, the FCC proposed fining David Telassi, W4BHV, of Ringgold, Georgia, $1,000 for, repeatedly, failing to identify. There is bound to be a moral to this but just remember to treat others with respect and courteousness or as you would like to be treated over the air. **On the bright side**, CQ reports that, fifteen year old, Anna Veal, W0ANT, of Littleton, Colorado has been named both, the Newsline Young Ham of the Year and the ARRL's Hiram Percy Maxim awards recipient for 2015. Both of her parents are hams and she was first licensed at age 8 years. She currently holds a General Class license. **So for all you young folks out there, you don't have to be an old crumudgeon to enjoy the benefits of amateur radio!**

**Other Stuff:**

**Repeat from the September issue:** For those of you who have never done a contest other than Field Day, I discovered, thanks to Fred Maize (KM3M) another contest called the Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA) that is a tremendous amout of fun. It occurs the first Saturday after Labor Day and lasts for only eight hours (1600-2400 UTC). It is the easiest and most

laid back contest you will find. Restricted to phone and the only report is your call and state. Its slow enough that you can have a nice conversation, there is no pressure. When you are done you turn in your log and a summary sheet by email. I highly recommend it for anyone who wants to try a contest for the first time. There is a nice website that explains it very well (http://www.ospota.org/ospota/index.php ) or just google "ospota".

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OTHER INFORMATION

(If anyone would like to include information or write an article for the Newsletter please let the ICARC Secretary know by email at: wd4hoz@gmail.com) The only caveats are: The editor reserves the right to alter the format for publication purposes. The content may also be modified contingent upon accuracy and appropriateness of the contained material. The latter would, of course, be subject to the approval of the author.

Walter Dzelsky-W3NFY a founding member of ICARC, is currently in Scenery Hill Manor nursing home under Hospice Care. Our best wishes and prayers go with him.

Rusty O'Donnell-WB3EUQ – contact information:

Rusty is at the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home, a Pennsylvania state facility just south of Altoona. Please note that he is not in the Altoona VA Hospital. He is in Eisenhower Hall and it's nursing care. The phone number for his room is (814) 695-1635. You may call at anytime. He does have a cell phone. For his cell phone (724) 388-1202.

Rusty's mailing address is :

David O'Donnell *(David is his actual name)*
P.O. Box 319
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

*If you go to see Rusty: When you get to Eisenhower Hall (the large building with the WWII tank in front of it, as you first come onto the grounds) You will need to sign in at the Security desk – they will direct you to his unit, North 2. The security guards have room charts and know the residents.*

# Minutes of October 6, 2015 ICARC Meeting

Attendees:

Craig Bigler-AB3XA, President
Jerry Kiehl-WB3DUD
Dave Steiner-KA3KFA
Larry Freeman-N3LT, Secretary
Fred Maize-KM3M
Dave Dzelsky-N3DZ
Phil Kopczyk-K3PJ
Terry Carnahan-KB3JOD, Treasurer
Ernest Clark
Matthew Scott-KC3ETO
Bill Wieserman-K3ZYK
Elmer Sorisio-KB3WG
Alton Strong-N3PHL

Guests: Mike Biconik KC3FPY

Call to Order: Craig Bigler (AB3XA)
The "Board" meeting started at about 7:00 PM. The board discussed the county repeater and decided, due to the condition of the old repeater, to ask the county to purchase a new146.85 MHz repeater. The time was also used to set up audio equipment.

Craig Bigler called the general meeting to order at 7:31 pm. He then made a few remarks about the Scout Camporee at Seph Mack Scout Camp and gave thanks to those who helped setup and operate. He also talked about the upcoming Jamboree on the air at Dave Steiner's home (Oct.17, 2015). He also made an announcement about the program tonight: N1MM+ logging software Tutorial/Demonstration. It will be after the meeting.

Secretary's Report
Larry Freeman (N3LT), Secretary, asked that the previous meeting minutes be discussed and approved. Larry F. (N3LT) made a motion to accept the minutes and Fred Maize (KM3M) seconded the motion. The Motion was voted upon and carried with one nay vote.

Treasurer's Report: Terry, Treasurer, presented a detailed financial report.

Phil Kopczyk (K3PJ) made a motion to accept the report and Ernie Clark seconded. The motion was voted upon and carried unanimously.

Repeater Update: Elmer Sorisio (KB3WG)
Elmer said that it is working well and pointed out that the ID volume has been slightly reduced to make its volume more in line with normal conversation levels. Larry pointed out that the hang time was increased to one sec from a half second previously. He also pointed out that the "click" noise is coming from either the controller or the repeater, not from outside. Some troubleshooting still must be performed. Dave Steiner (KA3KFA) noted that the courtesy tone is no longer hearable, only the squelch tail is heard when the PTT is released and repeater transmission is stopped. .

ARES and Monday Night Net Update: Dave Steiner (KA3KFA)
Dave reported the good news that there were two new check-ins on the Monday night net, October 5, 2015. However, concerning the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on Staurday, Oct. 3 no one signed in. Dave reported that he received the first email notice from the EC in Fayette county on Thursday evening. He forwarded the information to others but never heard anything from anyone else in the official chain. Dave received other emails from the same EC and reports that he is not happy with the lack of communications. Dave also reports that he heard from the Westmoreland EC that they were happy with the results of the SET. As always we need volunteers for net control on Monday night.

ACS and Monday Night NBEMS Update: Terry Carnahan (KB3JOD)
Terry reported nothing new for ACS. He and Phil Kopczyk (K3PJ) decided to try to get together on Monday night and invited others to join the group.

Old Business:
Larry reports that the Licensing class Starts tomorrow night at 6:00 pm in the EOC building. No responses came in from the Indiana Gazette PSA. Phil Kopczyk requested some help from anyone who has communicated using satellites because he will be speaking on the subject next week in the class.

PA QSO party: It was decided to definitely be two working stations with a possible third as a spare. Antenna setup in on Thursday, Oct. 8, 2015 at Dave Steiner's home around 4:00 PM. There will be two antennas set up so feedlines can be under the Pavillion. Either two G5RV's or a G5RV and the end-fed 40 m. These are in addition to Dave's in-place antennas. One tent will be necessary. It looks like there may be at least four operators but that is not firm. The event will be operated as a team under the W3BMD call. Tear-down will not occur until after the Jamboree on the air event on Saturday October 17, 2015.

The Veteran's Day communications test was tentatively scheduled for Sunday October, 18, 2015. The committee members and Fred Maize will meet somewhere near the courthouse at 1:00 pm.

The new ICARC membership form was reviewed and discussed. Alton Strong (N3PHL) made a motion to accept the new form and Terry Carnahan (KB3JOD) seconded the motion. The resulting vote approved the motion unanimously.

New Business:
Dave Steiner set up the Christmas celebration dinner at Hoss' for Decemeber 19 at 6:00 PM. He handed out the tickets and urged everyone to give some of these to others, reminding them that they do not have to eat with the club party at 6:00 PM but must eat on the same day at anytime during the day and present the ticket so that ICARC gets credit.

Phil Kopczyk (K3PJ) reported that the ICARC display at the Cook Port Fair received a Blue Ribbon and a $20.00 prize to be donated to ICARC. Kudos to Phil for all of his work in advertising the club and its contributions to the community in this manner!

Donations:
A total of $36.00 was donated tonight.

Adjournment:
Phil Kopczyk made a motion to adjourn and Dave Dzelsky (N3DZ) seconded the motion.
Craig Bigler, President (AB3XA) adjourned the meeting at 8:14 pm local time. The program started immediately thereafter.

Respectfully submitted by the Secretary, Larry Freeman (N3LT)